

Volume 9: Issue 10
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A Dark Side to Cherry Blossoms?

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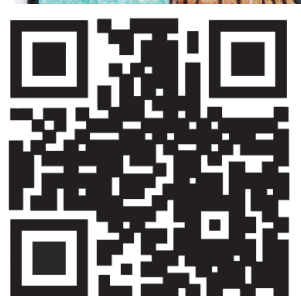
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**HOMELESS
HOTSPOTS**

Street Sense aims to serve as a vehicle for elevating voices and public debate on issues relating to poverty while also creating economic opportunities for people who are experiencing homelessness in our community.



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COVER ART

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OUR STORY

Street Sense began in August 2003 after Laura Thompson Osuri and Ted Henry approached the National Coalition for the Homeless on separate occasions with the idea to start a street paper in Washington, D.C.

Through the work of dedicated volunteers, *Street Sense* published its first issue in November 2003. In 2005, *Street Sense* achieved 501(c)(3) status as a nonprofit organization, formed a board of directors and hired a full-time executive director.

Today, *Street Sense* is published every two weeks through the efforts of four salaried employees, more than 100 active vendors, and dozens of volunteers. Nearly 30,000 copies are in circulation each month.

Your Dollar Makes a Difference Street Sense Economics

Each vendor functions as a self-employed subcontractor for Street Sense. That means he or she re-invests in the organization with every purchase. Vendors purchase the paper for 35 cents/issue, which will then be sold to you for a suggested donation of \$1.



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costs

Therefore, 35 cents of your donation repays the vendor for her initial purchase. The remaining money is profit that will support your vendor as he works to overcome homelessness.

65%
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vendor



As self-employed contractors, our vendors follow a code of conduct:

1. *Street Sense* will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1. I agree not to ask for more than a dollar or solicit donations for *Street Sense* by any other means.
2. I will only purchase the paper from *Street Sense* staff and will not sell papers to other vendors (outside of the office volunteers).
3. I agree to treat all others – customers, staff, other vendors – respectfully, and I will not “hard sell.” (threaten or pressure customers)
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10. I understand that *Street Sense* strives to produce a paper that covers homelessness and poverty issues while providing a source of income for the homeless. I will try to help in this effort and spread the word.



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Funding for Homeless Sees Shortfall in New D.C. Budget

Funds for District homeless services would see a \$7 million reduction under a newly released city budget for fiscal year 2013.

The cut in funding for homeless shelters and transitional housing reflects just part of a loss of more than \$21.6 million in federal funding for employment services, community development and family services that could not be made up with local money, according to D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray.

"We are unable to fund all the needs that there are," said Gray in a March 23 press conference held to announce his spending plan. "We wish there was more that could be done."

Gray acknowledged the growth of family homelessness in the city and the need to continue to pay for emergency shelters, permanent supportive housing and other homeless programs. He said city officials were "deeply concerned" about the loss of funds for homeless services. Restoration of the homeless funding topped a wish list of priorities included in the Mayor's budget.

"In the short term, we are hoping additional revenue will come through the door in the next several months," said Gray.

A preliminary analysis by the DC Fis-

cal Policy Institute concluded that a \$7 million shortfall in funding for homeless services would heavily impact programs.

"As proposed, the budget does not provide adequate funding to operate the shelter for homeless families at (the former) DC General (Hospital), or provide sufficient transitional housing subsidies to move families out of shelter," the analysis found.

As written, the \$9.4 billion budget would close an anticipated \$172.1 million gap between city revenues and expenses without raising new taxes or adding new fees, according to the mayor.

Local dollars were used to partially replace \$43.6 million in federal funds lost in other areas including police, welfare, workforce and mental health programs.

The budget will now be submitted to public hearings and consideration by the city council. Final approval is expected by May 15.

-Mary Otto

Family of Homeless Woman that Died in Jail Hires Attorney

In September, 29-year-old St. Louis native Anna Brown went to three hospitals complaining of leg pain after spraining her ankle. When she refused to leave the third hospital, the St.

Mary's Health Center, she was arrested for trespassing. Shortly after the arrest, the young woman who had been experiencing homelessness for some time died in jail. Her family has now hired an attorney, *The Associated Press* reported.

"If the police killed my daughter, I want to know," said Brown's mother, Dorothy Davis. "If the hospital is at fault, I want to know," she added, "I want to be able to tell her children why their mother isn't here." Davis has been taking care of her two grandchildren since Brown lost custody of them in April.

When the police officers showed up at the hospital, Brown had refused to leave. She was yelling from a wheelchair that her legs hurt so badly she couldn't stand, but that did not make the policemen give in. She was wheeled out in handcuffs by an officer after a doctor said she was healthy enough to be locked up.

Fifteen minutes after arriving to the police station where she had been dragged to the cell by her arms and left on the floor, a jail worker found her dead.

St. Mary's officials say they did all they were supposed to do for Brown and acting Police Chief Maj. Roy Wright told the wire service that his officers had no way of knowing Brown's dire condition.

"A lot of times people don't want to stay in jail and will claim to be sick," he said. "We depend on medical officials to tell us they're OK."

No lawsuit has been filed, but the family wants answers.

-Laura Lindskov Jensen

Designing for the Needy

In 2010, Professor Stephen Schock of Detroit's College for Creative Studies began offering "design activism" classes that encourage students to focus their talents on addressing the city's economic problems. While a junior in Schock's class, Detroit native Veronika Scott worked with homeless men to design a stylish coat that transforms into a sleeping bag. Now graduated, 22-year-old Scott recently launched her own nonprofit, The Empowerment Plan, to train and pay recently homeless women to produce the coats for homeless people on Detroit's streets. The organization has already produced 275 coats, according to *The New York Times*.

To make revenue, Scott soon plans to sell the coats online. Those who buy the coats will automatically get a second one to send to a shelter or charity anywhere in the world.

-Hannah Traverse

YES!

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- ☐ \$300 Buys vendor badges for six months.
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- ☐ \$5,000 Helps build significant organizational capacity.
- ☐ \$ Towards whatever is needed the most.
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Help *Street Sense* vendors like Veda get back to work and improve their lives.

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Veda was homeless and dealing with a history of drug abuse. Then, more than four years ago, a friend referred her to *Street Sense*. Since becoming a vendor, Veda has found a new home and a new lease on life. She says her customers have been very supportive. "They talk to me and give me a lot of encouraging words." Veda can often be found singing and selling her papers on the corner of G and 13th streets,

Chicago Donor Ships Bras by The Box

By Jessilyn Justice
Editorial Intern

A shelter that helps more than 900 women a year, N Street Village has made a goal of making sure each resident feels her best as she rebuilds her life. The nonprofit goes so far as to offer a unique cushion of support not found in most other shelters in the Washington area.

"It's a necessity for a woman to be treated to nice undergarments," Anne Steeves, in-kind gift coordinator at N Street Village, said. "It's part of being a woman, and we need to meet the needs of women, especially if they are homeless."

She is particularly concerned about bras. The comfort of having a well-fitted bra enables residents to adjust to a new life within the shelter and beyond. Yet these literal boosters of confidence, particularly those in large sizes are not often donated. And they can be costly, sometimes as expensive as \$150 for sizes up to 54H.

Fortunately, N Street Village has a special source for them.

It is Support1000, perhaps the only

service of its kind in the nation specifically focused upon getting donated bras to women in need.

The brainchild of Executive Director Oz du Soleil, Chicago-based Support1000 got started in 2008 and since then has garnered more than 15,000 bras through donations from the public and department stores. Some of the

"I love that organizations like Support 1000 have become a middleman to this niche and fill a need."

-Ann McCreedy, N Street Village

bras have been donated to women in other countries. But 88 percent of the undergarments remain here in America, going to organizations that support women in a variety of ways; from nonprofits dedicated to helping women leaving prison, to a reservation high school for Sioux students to institutions for the blind and visually impaired.

As women can attest, a quality bra is more than just comfortable: It's a physical support that grants confidence to the wearer. Yet these basic items can be costly, and out-of-reach for women struggling to get by.

"To put it in

perspective," said de Soleil, "it costs \$20 to \$50 for a decent bra. When you're a low-income woman, you could buy a tank of gas for that. Who was meeting this need?"

Initially, he planned to simply collect 1,000 bras to distribute, but once he hit his goal, he knew he could not stop. Shelters and other programs begged him to keep collecting and donating to their organizations.

But du Soleil hesitates to categorize the women whom he helps. The women are not necessarily low-income, he said. But each of them is struggling to overcome major challenges.

"These are women who've had a hard life. They don't have to be low-income. They could be well-off and coming from an abusive situation. They are just trying to put their lives back together," he said.

Steeves reached out to Support1000 in October 2010, and the shelter received its first donation later that fall. The latest quarterly shipment surpassed all expectations, lending 135 women the support they needed.

"When we give out bras, we're giving dignity," Steeves said. "Donors tend to give what they already have and are looking to get rid of. All women have a favorite bra, but what about those who don't have a favorite bra?"

Du Soleil agrees. He said that every woman has that one bra that doesn't fit quite right. She may not wear it but she hesitates to throw it away. With a donation to Support1000, a woman can give her bra — along with some precious dignity and confidence — to another woman in need.

"It's great," Ann McCreedy, the director of programs at N Street Village, said. "I love that organizations like Support1000 have become a middleman to this niche and fill a need."

QUICK FACTS: Support1000

It is the only organization in the U.S. to collect and donate only bras.

It began in November 2008.

It ships to countries all across the world including: Mali, Kenya, Guatemala, the Philippines and Zimbabwe.

It keeps 88 percent of the donations domestic to organizations. In D.C., donations are shipped to N Street Village and Martha's Table.

It can ship 100 bras for \$25.

How to donate

Bras: Mail new or gently used bras with the bra donation form available at support1000.org

Money: PayPal accounts accepted online. Any checks may be sent to Support1000
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Cherry Blossom Festival May Displace Families

By Kendra Nixon
Editorial Intern

As the famed National Cherry Blossom festival marks its centennial and extends its usual 16-day celebration to a full five weeks, record numbers of tourists are expected to arrive in Washington.

Yet as clouds of glorious blooms fill the District of Columbia, a few city officials and homeless advocates have been worrying about a possible unintended consequence of all that beauty.

With more than one million visitors expected to come to town to take in the flowers, will there be enough motel and hotel rooms left to house the homeless families who do not fit in the city's overflowing family shelter?

With a total of 29,000 hotel rooms available in the district, almost every hotel is expected to be filled to capacity during the five-week celebration. And those rooms are at a premium right now. A standard room at a popular D.C. motel,

typically advertised for \$109 per night, is increased to \$129 during the Festival.

So what will become of the 192 families that were placed in hotels as of early March?

In a city that depends on the tourists, and is expected to bring in \$126 million in revenues this spring, officials find themselves attempting to balance competing needs.

"DHS (the city Department of Human Services) is very aware of the situation. They will try to work with the hotel industry to move people into other hotels," said Nechama Masliansky, senior advocacy advisor at So Others Might Eat (SOME). "They will use all the units and resources possible to move people out of hotels."

City officials stress that the hotel and motel placements, which cost the city \$90 per night, per room, were made in a desperate attempt to cope with a steep rise in homeless families.

In the city, a total of 858 families - including more than 1,600 children - were included in the 2011 Point-In-Time homeless count, a seven percent increase over 2010 and the numbers have continued to climb.

On some nights during the winter, as many as 238 families had to be placed in hotels, according to Fred Swan, an administrator at the city Department of Human Services (DHS).

And while early this year, space at the city's main family shelter, located at D.C. General Hospital, was expanded to accommodate 272 families, need regularly continued to exceed capacity and the motel and hotel placements continued. On one hypothermic night, March 27, the hospital was at capacity.

Looking ahead to cherry blossom time, Swan offered reassurances that the city would take care of homeless families.

"Right now I am not sure if they will be impacted," he said. "If so, we have plans in place to relocate families if needed to other hotels. We are also moving families into shelters from the hotels."

Scott McNeilly, staff attorney for the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, has continued to monitor the situation.

"The last I heard, the District was actively trying to identify other motel capacity and negotiate for temporary use of rooms," he said. "There was no firm plan."

After the winter of 2011, it took DHS until July to move families out of hotels. But a lack of other options made it a necessity, they said. Families classified as "priority one" had no other place to go.

New Resource Center to be One-Stop-Shop for Homeless Vets

By Brandon Cooper
Editorial Intern

The Department of Veterans Affairs will open its Community Resource and Referral Center on April 2 near Rhode Island Avenue in Northeast D.C.

The center, one of 17 that the VA is opening around the country, is meant to be the most comprehensive source for the needs of homeless and at-risk veterans, Fuad Issa, the center's medical director, said. The building, located at 1500 Franklin Street NE, will be open around the clock. It is intended to serve as a one-stop shop, offering veterans assistance in a variety of areas.

"We don't just want to provide them with immediate needs like a shower or a hot meal, but with medical needs, psychiatric and addiction needs, housing needs, job services, coaching, vocational training — all of that, together, in one place," Issa said.

But of all the services the VA will offer, it is putting housing first.

"It used to be that in order to get

our services you had to pass through all of [these requirements] — show us a commitment, take your medications everyday, be clean from alcohol or drugs for so many days — and if you do all of that, then we will work with you," Issa said. "But the data was overwhelming that it really does not matter. If you get a person a house, the changes will follow."

The VA is hoping that housing will be the gateway to all other services that the center will provide. The holistic model will combine services that one would not usually expect under the same roof.

Veterans can go to the teaching kitchen and take cooking classes, then go down the hall to an exam room

for a doctor's visit. Or they can go into the computer lab to check their email before taking a class on finance and budgeting. The building in which the center will be housed will be completely remodeled by the time it opens. Contractors, many of whom are veterans, have replaced walls, wiring and even the sewage system. A lot of



The Community Resource and Referral Center to be opened on April 2 in Northeast D.C. by the Department of Veteran Affairs.

PHOTO BY BRANDON COOPER

materials have been recycled in the construction, Issa said, and the center will attempt to be LEED certified.

What the building will not be is a shelter, soup kitchen or emergency

room. However, Issa hopes that the VA can meet other social needs with which those places can often be burdened.

The center is currently looking to get involved with community organizations and federal agencies in order to succeed in meeting the needs of homeless and at-risk veterans.

"One of the most important things for this center is that we recognize that we cannot do it all," Issa said.

Although the medical director believes that the all-in-one approach the center will use is the best model to provide services, his biggest fear is that veterans will not find the center as helpful as he predicts.

"Does the veteran prefer this model?" Issa asked. "And this is very important, because you see this a lot, especially in health care, where somebody thinks, 'Oh, hey, this is a great model; we're going to set it up,' and it turns out that the patients didn't like it."

Regardless of the model, the center is trying to communicate one message to veterans: "We are here to serve you," Issa said. "You have basically risked your life for us; the least we can do is serve you. We want you to come and work with us, and we'll do anything we can to help."

Sparring Over a Shelter in Ward 8 Race

By Kendra Nixon
Editorial Intern

In the upcoming April 3 primary race for seats on the scandal-ridden DC City Council, the issue of homelessness has not received much attention.

But one contender for the Ward 8 seat has turned the planned opening of a women's shelter in Anacostia into a central part of her campaign.

In debates and on the campaign trail, candidate Natalie Williams, a Democratic challenger and former aide to Ward 8 incumbent councilman Marion Barry, has spoken out against the relocation of the Calvary Women's Services facility to Good Hope Road in Southeast.

Calvary's \$3 million, 14,000-square-foot project is set to transform an abandoned building in Anacostia into a new home that will serve 50 women a night and provide 100 meals a day. The program promises the women supportive housing and one-on-one attention from case managers to help them address the problems underlying their homelessness.

Currently Calvary serves 150 women a year in various locations, the largest being a women's shelter near Chinatown. Calvary officials say the move to Ward 8 would bring services to the area where the need is greatest. They say that 25

percent of the homeless women in the city come to shelters from Ward 8.

But Williams says Ward 8 already has more than its share of support programs and charities. She has counted 30, she says, and more are coming. Good Hope Kitchen, a shelter for homeless women based in Ward 6, also plans to expand into Ward 8 and would be located so close to Calvary that it would violate city law, Williams contends.

She would rather see bakeries, art studios, sit-down restaurants and an upscale supermarket opening on Good Hope Road. And she has called upon the city council to "enact emergency legislation regarding the number of group homes, transitional housing and community-based residential facilities approved for Ward 8."

For his part, Barry, who served four terms as city mayor, has defended Calvary, and the organization's record of providing services to poor and homeless women for more than 25 years.

"If she had taken the time, she would have found that Calvary Church is doing the Lord's work," said Barry, "and that they have successfully operated a women's transition house at 5th and K for almost 30 years."

"I am positive that the residents of



Marion Barry, sits as Ward 8's city council representative.

PHOTO BY LAURA LINDSKOV JENSEN

Ward 8 will see Natalie Williams for what she is," added Barry. "I stand firmly for housing, jobs and health care and to help people, not hurt them."

Williams counters that her views better reflect the views of the neighborhood than those of councilmember Barry. "It has been brought to my at-

tention that several other group homes have been given the thumbs-up by Councilman Marion Barry without taking into account the desires of the community at large," she said.

In all, one at-large council seat and four ward seats are being contested in the April 3 election.

Impact of Welfare Cuts Causes Worry

Advocates say children will be harmed

By Kendra Nixon
Editorial Intern

Nearly a year ago, the District implemented a 60-month time limit on welfare benefits. More than 6,000 families who had been on the rolls for more than five years saw reductions in their checks as a result.

Further reductions set to go into place Oct. 1 would take another bite out of benefits, leaving some families with monthly checks of as little as \$260.

Now poor families, their advocates and two city council members are asking for a reconsideration of the policy. They say they are worried that continued benefit cuts could harm very poor families, particularly thousands of poor children, who depend upon the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or

TANF to meet their most basic needs.

The move to reduce benefits was intended to encourage welfare recipients to find work. They are expected to get help in the transition from welfare to work from the city. But a redesigned TANF employment support program charged with assessing each family's needs and problems and guiding parents into job training, education and job seeking activities



Ed Lazore testifies representing the DC Fiscal Policy Institute.

PHOTO BY LAURA LINDSKOV JENSEN

has taken longer to get underway than was originally anticipated.

According to DC City Councilmember Jim Graham, only a fraction of the District's 18,000 TANF families have been assessed and referred to an employment service provider, and that it would be unlikely that many of them will be referred before the benefit cuts go into effect in October.

"Many of the families who receive TANF benefits for longer than 60 months are facing multiple severe barriers to employment," said Graham. He and Council member Michael Brown co-introduced the TANF Time Limit Amendment Act of 2012 which they say would better align time limits with the new employment program. It would replace the system of graduated reduction in benefits now in place with a simpler 60-month time-limit that would go into effect on Oct 1, 2013 and would broaden exemptions to include beneficiaries affected by disabilities and domestic violence.

"I think we all can agree that the goal of promoting self-sufficiency, but the implementation timeline of the current policy does not achieve that goal," said Graham during a March 22 hearing on the act.

Angela Anthony, recipient of TANF and mother of three, testified at the hearing. As of March 2011, she received \$528 per month. After the 20 percent cut in April last year, Anthony's income was reduced to \$438. If cuts continue, in October her income will be reduced to \$314.

"I want to thank you for being here because, believe it or not, there are a lot folks in our city who believe you do not exist," said councilmember Michael Brown to Anthony.

The 1996 welfare reform law known as the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act placed a new emphasis upon reducing welfare dependency and stressing the movement of recipients into jobs.

Out of Prison But Still Struggling

For those newly released from prison in the District, the road to normalcy is far from easy—and luck matters

By Anna Salinas
Editorial Intern

Freddie Smith was determined to stay free.

Newly released from a prison sentence in D.C. in 2008, he had been in and out of jail since he was 13 years old. But this time was different; this time he had shown huge gains in stabilizing his life, having spent months in a drug rehabilitation center. Then the judge demanded 90 days in a halfway house—standard for ex-offenders in the District.

“The only thing I could do was go to work,” said Smith. But finding work was difficult, especially since employers are often wary to hire ex-offenders. Then he remembered how a friend back at his rehab center had recommended he apply to a place called DC Central Kitchen, which, he was told, trained at-risk individuals such as ex-offenders and victims of substance abuse—in his case, he was both—in professional culinary skills. The organization then linked participants to jobs in commercial kitchens around D.C. with a nearly perfect placement record.

Smith quickly applied to the program and was soon accepted. Three years later, having successfully completed the program, he is now a staff member at DC Central Kitchen. Yet D.C. has few organizations like DC Central Kitchen—that is, programs that not only offer transitional outreach services to ex-offenders, but also train them in useful job skills.

Efforts DC, an organization that specializes in providing ex-offenders with general “re-entry” tools, offers mostly counseling, drug education and life skills workshops.

For its part, DC Central Kitchen offers participating students—many of whom enter the program with a

previous interest or background in cooking—free books, a transportation stipend and two meals a day. It also links them to various transitional programs, including transitional housing shelters and pre-trial services, and eventually to a job in one of D.C.’s commercial kitchens, with the hope of stabilizing their day-to-day lives.

As Marianne Ali, the organization’s director of job training, explains, ensuring that ex-offenders are able to return to their normal lives requires diverse efforts on the part of relief groups, families and even the government.

One of the major challenges facing ex-offenders newly released from prison, says Ali, is the difficulty of finding work, particularly since the economy has worsened in the last few years and competition for low-wage jobs has increased.

“The biggest thing is the idea that that folks just don’t hire felons,” said Ali.

DC Central Kitchen’s CEO, Michael Curtin, agreed. He added that as the pile of applications facing employers increases, ex-offenders are often ignored entirely.

“A lot of the highly skilled professionals that have lost jobs are looking for new jobs,” he said, “and an easy way to decrease that pile [of applications] is to eliminate ex-offenders.”

Fortunately, as Curtin explains, DC Central Kitchen has established close ties with many employers in the District, ensuring that its students will almost certainly find employment, often as a line cook.

But for those ex-offenders outside the program, the future may appear bleak. Between January 2008 and December 2011, unemployment in



A student at DC Central Kitchen, which trains ex-offenders and victims of substance abuse in culinary skills, presents his final exam.

PHOTO BY ANNA SALINAS

DC rose 4.5%, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Making the post-prison transition even more difficult, ex-offenders also face a national shortage of affordable housing. For every 100 low-income renter households, only 30 rental homes are available nation-wide, according to a recent study published by the National Low-Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC).

And in Washington, D.C., where the gap between the city’s highest and lowest earners is higher than almost any other major city in the country, the shortage is especially acute. D.C.’s low-cost rental supply has diminished by more than a third since 2000, according to Census Bureau data.

“The biggest thing is the idea that folks just don’t hire felons.”

Students at DC Central Kitchen are by no means immune to the affordable housing crisis. Ali noted that until three years ago, several students in each class, unable to find housing after leaving their halfway house, were forced to drop out of the program.

To address the problem, the organization quickly developed a protocol

for connecting students with affordable transitional and permanent housing, expanding its outreach team and teaming up with the Federal Housing Administration. Students were placed according to their level of risk, with addiction and past offenses each playing a role. Many were placed in D.C.’s Oxford Houses, a network of homes aimed at aiding those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction.

The solution is far from perfect, adds Moore, due to increasing demand for affordable housing.

“There’s just not enough housing,” she said.

Nevertheless, DC Central Kitchen has managed to graduate over 300 students in the last three years alone.

Less than a year after Freddie Smith first enrolled as a student at DC Central Kitchen, having already been hired as a staff member, he met a female student and soon found himself in love.

“I couldn’t stop looking at her,” he said, adding that he eventually asked her out on a date. The pair stayed together, even after the woman graduated and found work outside of DC Central Kitchen. Then in February of this year, the two wed.

Smith had come a long way since 2008, a fact about which he was proud, but he added that even with his desire to remain free and stable, he had been fortunate. He wishes he could thank the friend who originally told him about DC Central Kitchen but he has disappeared. Smith hopes he has not relapsed into drugs or other trouble.

“I think about my friend,” said Smith. “I don’t know what happened to him.”

The first cherry tree in the United States was planted in 1912 as a gift of friendship to from Japan.

Poems in Spring

As the District welcomes high temperatures and tourists, our contributors present their latest works

Cherry Blossoms

Over 100 years ago—
Cherry Blossoms has long been around through the Japanese culture.
We celebrate the joy of pretty, lovely Blossoms all over Washington.
The tourists come from out of town just to see the Cherry Blossoms
They smell so sweet and ncie, they are lovely.
They bring a smile on everyone's face.
Everyone has joined together to see the Blossoms.
They are historic flowers.
They have been posted on postal stamps, books, clothing, buttons
around D.C.
The Blossoms you can spend a day just sitting at the Base watching
them all day long,
how they blossom, plow, draw attention.
Taking pictures—
this year marks an early years of the Blossoms.
Enjoy your visit and time with these lovely flowers here in D.C.

Sybil L. Taylor, Vendor

Easter

What a Jolly Time for the
Easter Bunny, Hopping around Delivering
all sorts of easter goodies.
Easter is a Time to Rejoice
to be Happy, looking at all sorts of
Easter hobbies, Easter egg roll, finding
and hiding eggs, coloring eggs, all sorts of
baskets, all sorts of candy, all sorts of
stuffed animals, bunnys, chicks, rabbits, all
so nice. The children all dressed up in
nice Easter clothes. It's a day to go to
church rejoice in God, Rejoice THE DAY HE
ROSE. A day of a special Easter dinner
ham, with pineapples, greens, potatoe salad,
devilled eggs, fruit, favorite drinks.
Easter brings all colorful flowers, roses,
birds singing so joyfully, crisp spring air!
Easter is a wonderful day to spend with
loved ones and family. And remembering
who made Easter so special.
Happy Easter

Sybil L. Taylor Vendor

An Early Spring

This year spring came early, after milk Old
Man Winter quietly skipped town with the
metro gold coins mannered.

Spring entrances us with Her sweet
flower perfume and bright pink cherry
blossoms, Her warm sunny hot pants af-
ternoons, Her balmy evenings, when the
mood winks at young lovers... and She
whispers sweet words in your ear.

Suddenly Spring changes her mind, fickle
girl that She is... London fog in the morning,
dense cool gray air that Jack the Ripper can
cloak himself in... cold showers to dampen
the spirit.

But spring will snap her fingers again, and
all the young men's fancy will turn to thoughts
of love... Spring will stuff their money in Her
purse before She, too, slips out of town...

Gary J. Minter
garyjminter@alumni.duke.edu
Miriam's Kitchen Writers' Group

My Friends

Thank you my friends for being there.
At times when skies were gray.
And thank you friends for listening
When I had things to say.
You showed me love in many ways
When no one seemed to care.
I would have felt so all alone
If you had not been there.
My life was harder yesterday
Before I let you in.
Things are much better now
Thanks to you, my friends.

Phillip Black, "The Cat in the Hat"
Vendor

Easter

Dear Readers, happy Easter to you all.
My favorite time, having fun and seeing
decorated eggs. Everywhere is in Easter.
Easter always makes me happy, smile,
giigle, and laugh. Easter starts this year
on April 8, 2012 on Sunday. Most people
spend time on Easter collecting eggs, egg-
hunting and decorating them with paint
and designs. I love to go on Easter fairs like
egg-hunting and I love to go to the White
House with my daughter Victory. She was
born on on February 16, 2000. This is why
I love Easter so much. I experience things
like going places and I love to celebrate
Easter because God is so awesome and I
have a Scripture in the Bible in Luke 24:5
that explains that on Easter, we awaken
from the illusion of death into renewed
Life. Thank you. God bless you all.

Evelyn Nnam, Vendor

Photos of the 100th anniversary cherry blossom blooming at the Tidal Basin.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS SHAW, COWBOY POET

STREET SENSE
March 28 - April 10, 2012

SPRING TIME!

9



Comics & Games



BARNEY & CLYDE

BARNEY & CLYDE IS A COMIC STRIP ABOUT AN UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN A HOMELESS MAN AND A TYCOON. IT'S ABOUT OUR MODERN, POLARIZED ECONOMY OF HAVES AND HAVE-NOTS. IT RE-EXAMINES TRADITIONAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS, FAILURE, AND THE NATURE OF HAPPINESS.

BARNEY

by Weingartens & Clark

Behold an interesting principle of business.

Some practical ideas, even ingenious ones, never take off because, you know...

They're hopelessly uncool?

Exactly.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS: GENE WEINGARTEN IS A COLLEGE DROPOUT AND THE NATIONALLY SYNDICATED HUMOR COLUMNIST FOR THE WASHINGTON POST. DAN WEINGARTEN IS A FORMER COLLEGE DROPOUT AND A CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENT MAJORING IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. MANY THANKS TO GENE WEINGARTEN AND THE WASHINGTON POST WRITER'S GROUP FOR ALLOWING STREET SENSE TO RUN BARNEY & CLYDE.

SUDOKU

Courtesy of Krazydad.com

SOLUTION:

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KLEVER'S COMICS: SERIES 8

By Chino Dean
Vendor

Finally, the conversation of sports begins. Rize tells everyone he played almost every sport, but he particularly likes soccer, track, basketball and football. In soccer he played right halfback and right wing. A goal scorer. But his track times were phenomenal. He ran a 100 meter in 4.3 seconds. He became the fastest man in humanity, like his great ancestor grandfather from Ireland whose time was 4.8 seconds for the 100 meter. So when he began writing his copyrights he included those statements. In copyright law it states that anything addressed in a copyright, if it is an illegal activity, then it will be addressed by the Supreme

Court and the F.B.I., along with the Prosecuting Attorney for the United States of America. So since they plotted to steal his copyright since September 1, 1973, he figured he would place all of it in the copyright. The main reason for the track scores was to confiscate all Gold Medals from the Olympics for all track events. Luckily, his first cousin picks up the Silver Medals. His Puerto Rican Godsisters pick up the Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals for track. He got lucky enough to date and be with someone til this present day. **STAY TUNED AS RIZE CONTINUES HIS PUSH FOR EXCELLENCE. "KLEVER'S COMIC" EPISODE 4-----**



The Beautiful Wife

By Tammy Karuza
Vendor

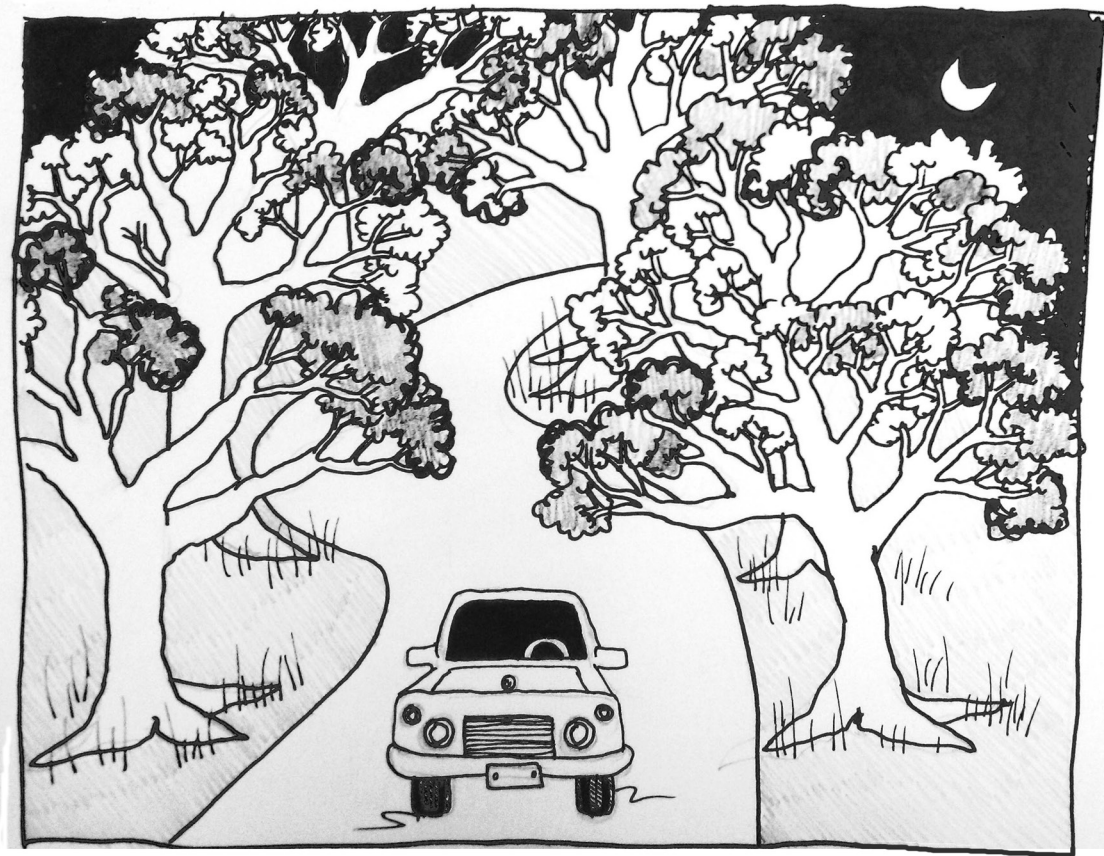


ILLUSTRATION BY HANNAH TRAVERSE

It was one of those out of the way places, out past the tall cornstalks of Elloree, beyond the prying of gossips, at the end of a road with no name. "Hickerau," they called it, once an ill-fated village of the Santee Indians, where beautiful women walked barefoot in its natural springs, and everything on the menu comes à la carpe diem.

Dusk had come fifteen minutes past when Genevive Bordole turned off highway 301 onto the narrow road.

The vestiges of daylight were lost beneath the star-shaped leaves of the sweet gum trees. They flew by on either side of the road, their gnarled arms reaching for each other like children playing, little girls playing, her little girls playing, their little hands locked in eternal sisterhood. They enjoyed life together, spent each day together, told each other their secrets.

She made a promise to them the night she found out about Jim's latest mistress. While lying in bed that night she called out to God, asking what she did wrong, begging Him not to allow anything bad to happen to her little

girls, swearing she would do whatever it took to protect her babies.

As time went on, Jim's iniquities grew more obvious. Kith and kin began pulling her aside at parties, asking questions they normally wouldn't be asking, and though Genevive and her nanny, Senovia, tried their best to protect the girls, Genevive saw their world slowly falling apart.

The music she had originally put on when she first entered the car to soothe her nerves - a soft Celtic melody - was interrupted by the ringing of her phone.

"Hello?" she asked, almost certain who it was.

"Miss Genevive?" asked a soft, familiar voice.

Senovia, who had originally come to her as a nanny for the girls, shortly after her parents died, was recommended by a fellow lawyer and close friend. She had proven herself to be more necessary than calcium. The younger woman's personality grew on her, and the two became close, making her a

valuable ally and confidante. So she and Senovia stayed up one night making plans. They worked out every detail. Every possible arrangement was made. They mapped out a whole new life, in a whole new place, with no less than they already had, without Jim, without his mistresses, and no messy divorces and custody battles. "I became worried. You did not call."

"I didn't call you because I'm not there yet," Genevive replied, trying to sound calmer than she really was.

"What? How far away are you? You still have time to turn around. Surely there is another way. We should never have resorted to this."

"Now, Senovia. We talked about this. There is no other solution. It has to be done. You know that."

Genevive heard the younger woman's burdened sigh and felt even more grateful for her friendship and loyalty. She knew she could not have gotten through this alone.

She also knew that Senovia would do just about anything for the girls.

"Yes, Miss Genevive."

"Have you finished packing?"

"Yes, Miss Genevive. I finished half an hour ago."

"I'm sorry that it's taking longer than I expected."

"Be careful, Miss Genevive." With that, Senovia disconnected.

Genevive felt her own pang of doubt. Was this the right thing to do? Had she thought it through thoroughly? Her red clutch purse was on the passenger seat. She gazed at it. The bulge reminded her of the plan and its possible ramifications. She patted it with her right hand.

"It's going to be OK," she whispered, trying to convince herself, just as she had convinced Senovia, often wondering, over the course of a few weeks, what she was dragging the younger woman into.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Trayvon or Tawana?

By Jeffery McNeil
Vendor

Although Trayvon Martin's tragic death and the accompanying circumstances should cause Americans to question how far we have come on racial issues in the past few generations, I am cynical about the motivations of some of those who have shown up in Sanford, Fla. to lead the protests and call attention to this atrocity.

I want to see justice done in this case, as do the people picketing the police stations and city council meetings. I am upset about Trayvon's murder and that nothing seems to have been done about it yet; however, I am also upset at those people who always seem to use these tragedies to further their brand and get themselves up on the stage.

As a black man, I have attended many marches and protests over the years believing that I was participating in a movement promoting the advancement of civil rights. I have often left these rallies early in disgust when I realized that the cause for which we were marching was being overshadowed by those who had turned the protest into an audition to be the next Martin Luther King, Jr. Rather than furthering the message and the cause, these wannabe pastors and drama mammas are only interested in promoting themselves.

I don't want to be too harsh on our cause. I am interested in the causes and movements these agitators co-opt for their benefit I do not want to listen to these peoples' rabble babble. All the inflammatory rhetoric and race-baiting verbiage used by these so-called spokesmen mucks up the waters and prevents a civil discourse on the realities of racism.

Whenever I see Al Sharpton show up on some courthouse steps or in front of some victim's house, I remember Tawana Brawley. I am reminded of how his racially charged speeches stirred up a firestorm of outrage only to be subsequently exposed as more fiction than fact. This behavior is no different than the outright lies and stereotypes told by the racists on the other side.



When I hear Jesse Jackson comparing the tragedy of Trayvon Martin to the lynching of Emmitt Till, I realize that many of our leaders are more willing to grab headlines and make inaccurate analogies to draw attention to themselves than to engage in an open and honest discussion about race. Let's be very clear: the murder of Trayvon Martin and the lynching of Emmitt Till may have some similar aspects in that the victim was a young black man killed by someone who was not black and who was not immediately charged with the killing. But, the similarities between the cases end there. In the lynching of Emmitt Till, the entire community and culture was complicit. In the shooting of Trayvon Martin, one individual committed a heinous act and the community has erupted in outrage over the handling of the case.

All such rhetoric distracts Americans from the true discussion that needs to happen about the double standard in the American psyche concerning black men and crime. Most Americans presume black men are guilty until they are able to prove their innocence. But, when a crime is committed against a black man by someone who is not black, the perpetrator is innocent in the minds of most Americans until proven guilty.

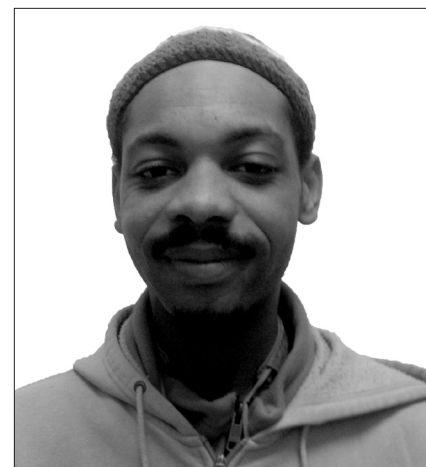
I worry that all of the outrage over Trayvon's death will fade as people become fatigued by all the conspiratorial rhetoric thrown about by those who seek to promote themselves. But more than this, I fear that the changes that our society needs to make in the wake of such a disaster will never be earnestly undertaken as long as those in the spotlight are more concerned with generating sound bites than they are with fully examining the issues at hand.

Springtime Fishing

By Michael Pennycook
Vendor

The springtime is here, my favorite part of the year. This year, spring came early, so I started doing what I love to do. This time of year, I start fishing. All the fish are having babies, so some of the biggest fish are in the Potomac River this time of the year. For the last three weeks, I have not sold one *Street Sense* newspaper. Instead I have been fishing every day. This year has been very slow for some reason. I have only caught three rockfish and at least 50 catfish. For the last three weeks I have left my house at 2 p.m. to get on the train. When I get off at Dupont station I walk down to Rock Creek Park. There I catch bait fish. Some days it is very easy to catch the bait, but it's not always easy for me. Other times I have been down at the creek for three to five hours just trying to catch the bait. Once I finally get enough bait, I ride my bike down to Georgetown to a place called Fletcher's Boat House. I have been fishing there since I was 8 years old, so I know all the spots. I always get there an hour before dark so I can set up my fishing stuff. I gather wood and make a campfire so I can stay warm while fishing. It is a waiting game after that. Recently, I have been fishing from seven in the evening to one in the morning. Last night I was the best so far. I caught a 35" rockfish after fishing 11 days straight and only catching catfish. It's a good feeling when you have a big rockfish on the line, and you have to fight with the fish.

In the spring, the big female rockfish swim away from the ocean and up the rivers to lay eggs. Since the Woodrow Wilson Bridge has been under construction, fishing has been slow and the fish don't come up the river like they used to. Five or six years ago, there were so many fish that we could catch two to five big rockfish every night in late



March to early April. But times have changed. I have never had to work this hard to catch rockfish. I got laid off at University of Maryland back in 2008 after working there for 10 years. Afterwards, I went fishing every day so I could pay my rent. I used to catch many different kinds of fish there: croakers, rockfish, trout, and largemouth bass, to name a few. I would catch fish and then fillet them, making \$10, \$15, and \$20 bags of fish. I built up customers by asking taxi drivers, bus drivers and other people I met while I was out. I would tell people that my fish are never more than 24 hours old, and you can't get fish any fresher. A lot of people loved my fresh fish. I paid my rent for three months with the money until winter came and ended fishing season.

When I used to fish in Southwest D.C. I would watch the homeless guys catch catfish and sell them to the market for 50 cents a pound. That's how they survive every day. I'm glad God gave me the gift of fishing. I love being around the water. It's my peace of mind. By the time the next issue of *Street Sense* comes out I will be a father, and I hope that I can pass the same or better level of fishing skills to my son. Thank you for helping. I love you all.

Keep smiling and have a great day =).

GoodSearch
YOU SEARCH WE GIVE™
powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

Homeless Hotspots Leaves Cold Front Over Austin

By Logan K. Young
Volunteer

"Families sleepin' in their cars in the Southwest / No home, no job. No peace. No rest."
— 2012 SxSW keynote speaker Bruce Springsteen, "The Ghost of Tom Joad"

Another late March, and yet another South by Southwest is on the books. No more badges; no more lines. And definitely, no more breakfast tacos.

Yes, like any fest worth its sponsors, #SxSW has been losing its soul for years now. That's just how the game gets played. But this year, with so many corporations barely trying to cover up their stench, things smelled extra rotten in the state of Texas.

And for once, it really is fine to hate the players.

Insofar as *Street Sense* is concerned, the stickiest and most smarmy of them all had to be Bartle Bogle Hegarty's Labs—the two-if-by-sea skunks who brought us the infamous marketing scheme that will go down as Homeless Hotspots.

By now, you know the shame by heart: 12 homeless men - clad in dehu-

manizing "I'm a 4G hotspot" tees - were used as living, breathing WiFi tethers all for the benefit of faster tweets, quicker check-ins and better-staged Instagrams. It was cheap; it was easy. And it certainly was a pathetic #SxSW ploy.

Moreover, to this day, BBH Labs has yet to proffer a proper apology. This comes as no great surprise. Really. Again, that's simply how ad men play their game nowadays.

To be fair, the city of Austin, itself, isn't exactly to blame. Given the recent outpouring for the late Leslie Cochran—a doting, albeit eccentric, advocate for the rights of the homeless—it's clear how much the good people of Austin care about those on the streets. (Remembering Leslie as only Austin could, heck, he's even got an iPhone tribute app now!)

But corporations aren't people.

They never have been. The fact alone that something as crude as Homeless Hotspots ever got past a severely off-color joke in the boardroom further proves they never will.

Suggesting that BBH Labs' initiative was even remotely related to the empowering and truly redemptive experience that this very paper provides so many—week after week, year upon year—is not only reckless, it's just plain absurd.

Need proof? Find a vendor anywhere in the District and ask him/her.

Ultimately, Homeless Hotspots proved to be nothing more than demographic callousness dressed up in technocratic cool. Those who devised it, those who instituted it, as well as those that might've just looked the other way on Sixth Street, should all be ashamed.



HOMELESS HOTSPOTS

Homeless Hotspots will remain a blight on future South by Southwest gatherings for years to come. And it should. Our nation's homeless deserve at least that much.

Keep Austin wired? Sure thing, #SxSW. But first and foremost, let us also remember to keep her kind...in the right measure.

BBH Labs Responds

Janine Bandcroft, who publishes *Street Newz* - a Canadian street paper, contacted Bartle Bogle Hegarty's Labs (BBH) directly to clarify some points about the Homeless Hotspots project.

Street Newz: Were you satisfied with the Austin experiment? Will you be proceeding with the project in other cities?

BBH: *The Austin program had two primary success metrics, both tied to some of the key benefits of street newspapers. The first was the total number of social interactions each of the participants had, specifically those opportunities they got to tell their story and be treated with respect and dignity by a group that tends to make them invisible during conferences like SXSW. By that metric, the program was overwhelmingly successful.*

The second metric is in the money raised for the participants. ... We can confirm that the \$50 we guaranteed each participant for their 4 to 6 hour shifts has been delivered upon.

In reality though, I think we all truly identify success as seeing a street newspaper, or potentially a shelter,

benefit from the pilot program in Austin, taking what worked, ignoring what they didn't, and building upon the conversation all of this generated to give an even broader voice to the homeless population.

Street Newz: I understand that 'vendors' were paid \$20 a day, and I notice there's a paypal option off your website with 'Clarence' in the reference line... How many hours did they work for the \$20? Will Clarence or the other vendors be entitled to a portion of any of the paypal donations?

BBH: *Unfortunately, the early media coverage was inaccurate in its portrayal of the program and our close partnership with the Front Steps shelter in Austin, which led to misinformation about how the participants would be compensated. From the outset, all program participants were guaranteed to make at least \$50 USD per 4-6 hour shift daily, which is well above Texas minimum wage. The program's finances were constructed hand in hand with the case managers at Front Steps, who advised in detail to A) ensure the participants were fairly compensated; and B) account for the tremendous responsibility that comes*

from handing over-disproportionately large amounts of money to individuals navigating a transition period in life.

It is important to clarify that the reported \$20 was an upfront cash stipend paid to the participants at the end of each day worked and was the amount recommended by the Front Steps case managers. The remainder of the participants' compensation will be closely managed in partnership with their case managers, and as I said in answer to your first question, will amount to more than the guaranteed \$50/6-hours. To be clear - and as reported on our BBHLabs blog - every single dollar generated by this program will be paid to the homeless participants. Also, if you see "Clarence" in the PayPal reference line, you are clicking on Clarence's Hotspot button. If you are visiting the other hotspot managers locations, you would be donating to them directly as individuals and see their name.

Street Newz: When people buy a street newspaper, it's often because they're interested in reading the paper itself. I understand that hotspots provide internet access to anything a person wants at that particular moment - will your homeless hotspot vendors provide

street wifi access to [any website]?

BBH: *Your point about content creation is a very important one, and frankly the weakest element of our program. I personally had a chance to discuss this issue with John Bird, who founded Big Issue and is often credited with creating the model we were hoping to help. John brought to light the very important fact that many homeless individuals are local experts. I know I saw this first-hand when I had most participants ignore our recommendations on where to look for sales and choose what turned out to be much smarter, effective sales locations that can only be attributed to them truly understand those places in downtown Austin people are likely to congregate in need of internet connectivity.*

Like any internet cafe or access point, once the customer leaves the initial homelesshotspots.org site, they can navigate any part of the web they'd like. We did however use typical hotel and local standards when crafting the Terms & Conditions of usage.

To see more of Street Newz, visit <http://RelativeNewz.ca>.

WE COULDA BEEN CHAMPIONS (Nearly the Winning Team)

By Chris Shaw
Cowboy Poet

*Fate gave Dale Hunter a break
Not the one Ovie would take.
Knuble is brave, Green OK;
Backstrom got thunked - Is that the way?
Once I declared my Father's code was
Honor over victory. If the Caps
Don't make the playoffs, Whattya call
That—Sheer trickery?*

Dream of my Demise

By David Denny
Vendor

*I look back and I feel the pain,
The soft dirge and a cold driven rain.
Some hearts are broken, some never opened,
All search for words that were never spoken.
The slow procession, the bereft crowd,
My body conveyed in its final shroud;
The spectral audience stirred from their rest
Attend the reception of their newly arrived guest.
That time has passed now and no one can remember.*

*That solemn day just last December,
All of my dreams, the things I would say
Are just vague shadows in a lost yesterday.
But, that certain sparkle in my daughter's eyes,
A vestige of me then her mother cries.
My familiar strut and silly smirk
Revealed through a stranger at my sister's work.
We are never forgotten though it may seem,
Then I wake up from my demise in a dream.*

Discouous Infernalis

*Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
vain glossi ant decorate likath whores.*

The Verso

*Steel on the ashes of black,
lost poems. Tha un-seen back
thiar is is graved. Wyht a knack
forr eyres, clouds laste. Tack
thoos wrixled pises ond pack
em y flames. Good-by. My sack
hoolds me feaw heer. I the byd
leav thaem thus, amynd the wrack.*

Vanité

Vers for hur manyere, her

*tweea seemly een.
The trees are green
geseapenis, as thae the
weryeth ssedes fore Lethe.*

Hwu

*If I till wud
may-flowers bud?*

By Franklin Sterling
Vendor

Service Spotlight: Virginia Williams Family Resource Center

STREET SENSE
March 28 - April 10, 2012

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

By Evi Mariani
Editorial Intern

Virginia Williams Family Resource Center is the central intake office for all families requesting emergency housing and assistance in D.C. The families would be referred to a homeless shelter, D.C. general hospitals or a housing program such as Spring Road Family Apartments, which provides 28 apartment units for families that have temporarily become homeless, or Valley Place Family Transitional Apartment Program, which has 18 fully equipped apartment units to be used as transitional housing for homeless families with children who have lived in an emergency shelter for at least six months.

Spring Road and Valley Place both provide their clients with employment services, substance abuse counseling, life skill training (parenting, homemaking, budgeting and time management), and general social services including referrals for medical care, child care, and permanent housing placement.

In addition Spring Road and Valley

Place, Virginia Williams can refer homeless families to other housing programs throughout D.C. Due to its central role, Virginia Williams is able to track the trend of D.C.'s family homelessness.

Homeless families in need of housing assistance should go to Virginia Williams offices on weekdays between 8:15 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. to meet with staff members, who will conduct an intake process that includes a screening.

Clients have to be families with children. Virginia Williams, a nonprofit organization that gets government funding, has served more than 1,600 families in D.C. and assisted more than 400 families in obtaining temporary emergency housing. It has provided scores of families with financial assistance to prevent them from becoming homeless.

The resource center also provides employment training and placement.

For more information:
920-A Rhode Island Ave, N.E.
(202) 526-0017
www.dccfh.org

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS HOTLINE

1-888-7WE HELP (1-888-793-4357)

SHELTER

Calvary Women's Services
110 Maryland Avenue, NE
(202) 289-0596 (office)
(202) 289-2111 (shelter)
www.calvaryservices.org

Central Union Mission (Men)
1350 R Street, NW
(202) 745-7118, www.missiondc.org

Open Door Shelter (Women)
425 2nd Street, NW
(202) 393-1909
www.newhopeministriesdc.org/id3.html

Community of Hope (Family)
1413 Girard Street, NW
(202) 232-7356, www.communityofhopedc.org

Covenant House Washington (Youth)
2001 Mississippi Avenue, SE
(202) 610-9600, www.covenanthousedc.org

John Young Center (Women)
119 D Street, NW
(202) 639-8469, www.catholiccharitiesdc.org

My Sister's Place
PO Box 29596, Washington, DC 20017
(202) 529-5261 (office)
(202) 529-5991 (24-hour hotline)

N Street Village (Women)
1333 N Street, NW
(202) 939-2060, www.nstreetvillage.org

Samaritan Inns
2523 14th St., NW
(202) 667 - 8831
http://www.samaritaninns.org/home/

New York Ave Shelter (Men 18+)
1355-57 New York Avenue, NE
(202) 832-2359

FOOD

Charlie's Place
1830 Connecticut Avenue, NW
(202) 232-3066
www.stmargaretsdc.org/charliesplac

Church of the Pilgrims (Sundays only)
2201 P Street, NW
(202) 387-6612, www.churchofthepilgrims.org

Thrive DC
Breakfast served Mon.-Fri., 9:30-11 a.m.
Dinner for women and children, Mon.-Fri.,
3-6 p.m.

St. Stephens Parish Church
1525 Newton St, NW
(202) 737-9311, www.thrivedc.org

Food and Friends
219 Riggs Road, NE
(202) 269-2277, www.foodandfriends.org

Miriam's Kitchen
2401 Virginia Avenue, NW
(202) 452-8089, www.miriamskitchen.org

The Welcome Table
Church of the Epiphany
1317 G Street, NW
(202) 347-2635, http://www.epiphanydc.org/ministry/welcometbl.htm

MEDICAL RESOURCES

Christ House
1717 Columbia Road, NW
(202) 328-1100, www.christhouse.org

Unity Health Care, Inc.
3020 14th Street, NW
(202) 745-4300, www.unityhealthcare.org

Whitman-Walker Clinic
1407 S Street, NW
(202) 797-3500, www.wwc.org

OUTREACH CENTERS

Bread for the City
1525 Seventh Street, NW
(202) 265-2400
1640 Good Hope Road, SE
(202) 561-8587, www.breadforthecity.org

Community Council for the Homeless at
Friendship Place
4713 Wisconsin Avenue NW
(202) 364-1419, www.cchfp.org

Bethany Women's Center
1333 N Street, NW
(202) 939-2060, www.nstreetvillage.org

Father McKenna Center
19 Eye Street, NW
(202) 842-1112

Friendship House
619 D Street, SE
(202) 675-9050, www.friendshiphouse.net

Georgetown Ministry Center
1041 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
(202) 338-8301
www.georgetownministrycenter.org

Martha's Table
2114 14th Street, NW
(202) 328-6608, www.marthastable.org

Rachel's Women's Center
1222 11th Street, NW
(202) 682-1005, www.ccdsd.org/howorwc.php

Sasha Bruce Youthwork
741 8th Street, SE
(202) 675-9340, www.sashabruce.org

So Others Might Eat (SOME)
71 "O" Street, NW
(202) 797-8806; www.some.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Academy of Hope GED Center
601 Edgewood Street, NE
(202) 269-6623, www.aohdc.org

Catholic Community Services
924 G Street, NW
(202) 772-4300, www.ccs-dc.org

D.C. Coalition for the Homeless
1234 Massachusetts Ave., NW
(202) 347-8870, www.dccfh.org

Community Family Life Services
305 E Street, NW
(202) 347-0511, www.cflsdc.org

Foundry Methodist Church
1500 16th Street, NW
(202) 332-4010, www.foundryumc.org

Gospel Rescue Ministries (Men)
810 5th Street, NW
(202) 842-1731, www.grm.org

Hermano Pedro Day Center
3211 Sacred Heart Way, NW
(202) 332-2874
www.ccs-dc.org/find/services/

JHP, Inc.
425 2nd Street, NW
(202) 544-9126, www.jobshavepriority.org

Samaritan Ministry
1345 U Street, SE
1516 Hamilton Street, NW
(202) 889-7702, www.samaritanministry.org

**SHELTER HOTLINE:
1-800-535-7252**

VENDOR PROFILE: SHAKAYE HENRY

By Brandon Cooper
Editorial Intern



Shakaye Henry moved to Washington, D.C. more than three years ago. Although she became homeless not too soon after her move, she has always enjoyed the District.

Henry, who grew up in Sandusky, Ohio, is fond of her hometown and smiled when reminiscing about Cedar Point; the amusement park nearby. She also lived in Florida for a time, but still prefers D.C. to the other two.

“I really like the design of the city,” Henry said. “And—this might sound strange to some people—but I like the sidewalks. I like how the sidewalks look.”

Shakaye came to the District to protest against human trafficking, a cause which she is still very passionate about today. However, soon after coming to the District, Henry could not find adequate employment and found herself stuck on the streets. Finding a job was difficult for Henry, as she has a learning disability and physical disability that keeps her from being able to stand for long periods of time.

“It’s been hard for me to find a place to work where I can be sitting a lot,” she said.

However, probably her toughest trial in life, even more than being homeless, was losing custody of her child.

“I was crushed,” Henry said. Despite all of these problems, Shakaye was able to eventually find a job as a vendor at *Street Sense*.

Not too long after moving to D.C. and winding up homeless, Henry talked about the newspaper with other women in a homeless shelter. Three years ago after visiting the office, she decided to become a vendor.

She said that there are a lot of reasons why she enjoys selling newspapers, but that she gets the most joy out of the relationships she has developed with her regular customers.

“They can be very entertaining,” Henry said.

She also enjoys working as a vendor for *Street Sense* because she does not have to be on her feet all day and can set her own hours. Henry usually works between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. in Alexandria near King Street. She can be found near the Court House Metro station.

Henry eventually found housing after starting as a vendor and still resides in the same apartment today. With her life looking up, she would like to find a job after *Street Sense*. She still has her heart set on advocacy work.

“The government is not doing enough about the problem,” Henry said. “Human trafficking can ruin a child’s life.”

Henry said she would love for her career to involve protesting against human trafficking or advocating for the disabled, but ultimately said she is looking for an office-type job where she can sit and work.

LAST WORD: FROM NOBODY TO SOMEBODY

By Veda Simpson
Vendor



A lot of you do not know how it feels to go to sleep a nobody, with no sense of self-worth, and then wake up out of that nightmare with a new sense of life, feeling good about yourself, knowing that you are SOMEBODY. Well, that’s my story.

I was brought up in a two-parent home with everything an average child needed. I graduated from Eastern High School. I had summer jobs at the Pentagon. After I graduated, I started working at the post office; that’s when it all started. I began hanging out with the wrong crowd: drugs, parties, and good times, as they say, are here to stay. WRONG! When I realized this, it was too late. Using God’s temple, my body, for everything but the right thing. The only thing left was for me to say, “God if you show me the way, I will join your army and I won’t turn back. I might fall, but I will get back up, dust myself off and keep marching to see what the end will be.”

He sent me an angel to tell me about *Street Sense*. It hasn’t been easy. Out of 20 people, I might get one donation and it might be 50 cents, but I’m grateful as if it was \$100. I have put structure back into my life. I go to a meeting every day at 5 a.m. before I come to work

and those meetings remind you that you have to tell on your disease. Don’t hold that stuff inside. Get it out, tell someone. So I’m telling you so I won’t use again.

I have been saving and now I have my apartment for my eight grandbaby cats and myself. I feed 20 cats outside my building, and three are expecting any day. Nuts for the squirrels and bread for the birds. I also give money to other homeless people who are trying to help themselves every day, and I give money to children, because they are our future. So you see, what I make is spread a long way because animals have feelings too.

Somebody helped me so I am paying it forward. I entered school and hope one day to become a veterinarian’s assistant. I can’t get my degree until I finish paying my tuition of \$500. I’m not going to worry. I will finally get it paid, and I’ll be like Rocky climbing up those stairs until I reach the top!

I dream of one day having a place in the country with lots of land, so I could empty out a lot of animal shelters and give the animals a real home.

For now, I am praising God from the bottom of my heart. And I want to thank each and every one of you for believing in me. That’s why I am a soldier in the army. I have to fight although I have to cry. I have to hold up the blood-stained banner. I have to hold it up until I die. If you want your personal thank you, stop by 13th and G streets NW because Veda can now say, “I’m grateful!”

STREET SHOTS: DC VIBE

“F street, what can I say!
PHOTO BY CHRIS SHAW



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Street Sense
1317 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Mail To:

Remember, only buy from badged vendors and do not give to those panhandling with one paper.

Interested in a subscription? Go to page 3 for more information.

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